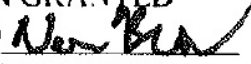


May 9, 2023

**VIA ECF**

APPLICATION GRANTED  
SO ORDERED   
VERNON S. BRODERICK  
U.S.D.J. 05/10/2023

The Honorable Vernon S. Broderick, U.S.D.J.  
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square, Room 415  
New York, New York 10007

RE: *U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Merrill Lynch First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2007-3 v. First Franklin Financial Corporation, Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc., and Bank of America Corporation*  
(Case No. 1:19-cv-4890) (“FFMER 2007-3”)

*U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Merrill Lynch First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2007-4 v. First Franklin Financial Corporation, Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, Inc., and Bank of America Corporation*  
(Case No. 1:19-cv-5948) (“FFMER 2007-4”)

Dear Judge Broderick:

On behalf of the Plaintiff-Trustee and Defendants (together, the “Parties”) in the above-referenced FFMER 2007-3 and FFMER 2007-4 actions (the “Actions”), we write pursuant to Your Honor’s November 10, 2022 Orders staying the Actions pending the Trustee’s evaluation of new written offers to settle the Actions (the “New Settlement Offers”) (19-cv-4890, Dkt. No. 81; 19-cv-5948, Dkt. No. 82). Your Honor’s Orders require that “the Parties report to the Court regarding the status of the Trustee’s evaluation of the New Settlement Offers by May 10, 2023.” (*Id.*)

As we previously advised the Court, the Plaintiff-Trustee solicited directions from certificateholders in the FFMER 2007-3 and 2007-4 Trusts regarding the New Settlement Offers, and selected an independent expert to evaluate the New Settlement Offers and to advise the Trustee in anticipation of the Trustee seeking instructions in judicial trust instruction proceedings (“TIPs”) in Minnesota state court. (*Id.*) The Trustee’s expert found the New Settlement Offers reasonable, and the Parties conditionally executed a settlement agreement in FFMER 2007-3 on February 4, 2022, and a settlement agreement in FFMER 2007-4 on March 10, 2022 (together, the “Settlement Agreements”), subject to, among other things, final court approval in TIPs. On February 4, 2022 for FFMER 2007-3 and March 11, 2022 for FFMER 2007-4, the Trustee filed TIP petitions in the District Court of Ramsey County, Minnesota, seeking, among other things, approval of the Settlement Agreements. (Case Nos. 62-TR-CV-22-9 and 62-TR-CV-22-13, (together the “Petitions”).) After initial hearings and discovery, the TIP Court has set a starting trial date of June 5 for both FFMER 2007-3 and FFMER 2007-4 to be tried together.

In the interest of efficiency and to reduce the burden on the Parties and the Court, the Parties respectfully request that the stays remain in place and that the Parties report to the Court regarding the status of the TIPs by November 10, 2023.

Hon. Vernon S. Broderick, U.S.D.J.  
*U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. First Franklin Financial Corp.*  
Case Nos. 1:19-cv-4890 and 1:19-cv-5948  
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We appreciate the Court's consideration of this request, and the Parties are available to address any questions the Court may have.

Respectfully submitted,

**McKOOL SMITH, P.C.**

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Hon. Vernon S. Broderick, U.S.D.J.  
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